

Idaho Basin Advisory Group (BAG) and Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) Process

Presented at:
Spokane River Metals WAG Meeting
By: Robert Steed,
IDEQ , Surface Water Ecologist
April 5, 2016



Basin Advisory Groups

- Basin advisory groups (BAGs) are groups of citizens that advise DEQ on water quality objectives within Idaho's six basins. Its members are appointed by the director of DEQ and represent a cross section of interests in the basin, such as those representing agriculture, forestry, municipalities, industry, recreation, Native American tribes, and environmental concerns

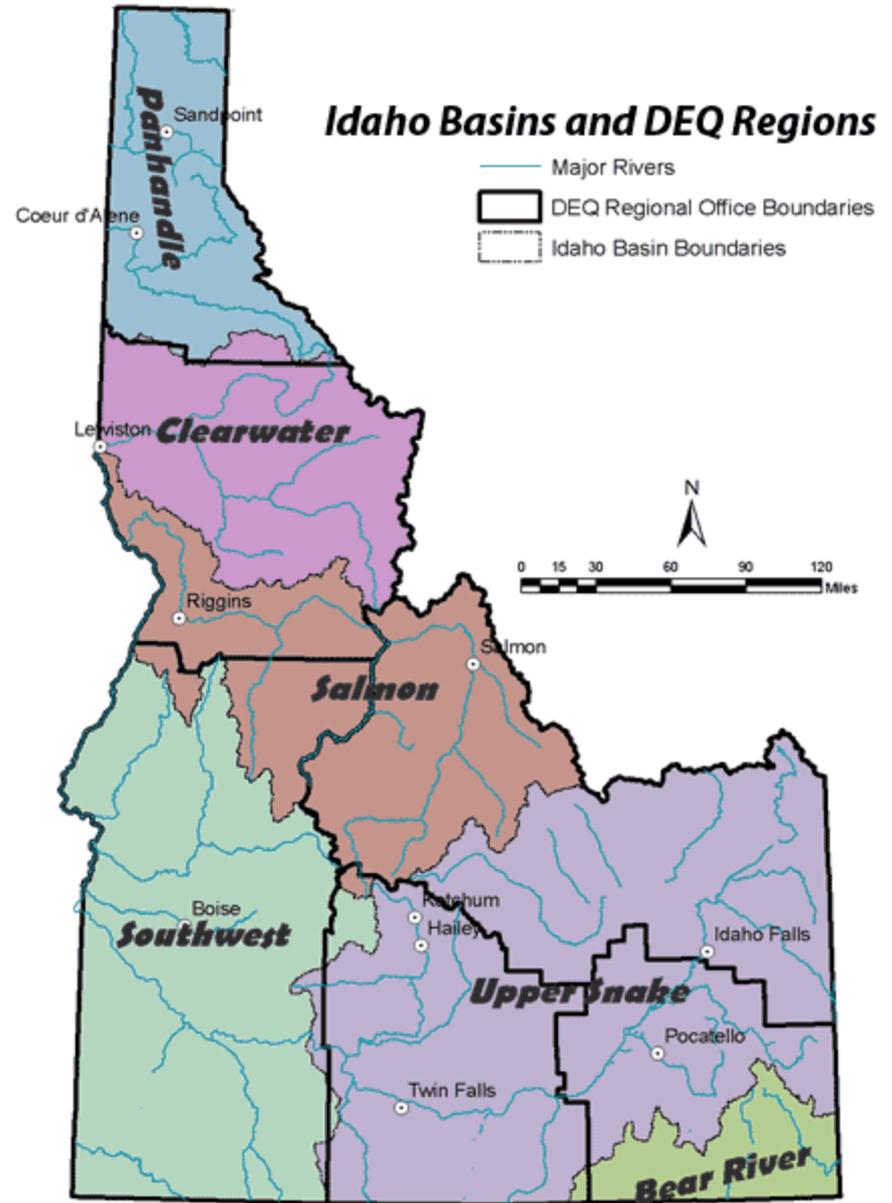
BAG Membership

- BAG members are appointed by the director of DEQ and represent a cross section of interests in the basin. By statute, the membership of BAGs must be representative of the industries and interests directly affected by implementing water quality programs within the basin. Each member must either reside within the basin or represent persons with a real property interest within the basin.
- Among the interests that may be represented on BAGs are agriculture, mining, nonmunicipal point source discharge permittees, forest products, local government, grazing, Native American tribes (for areas within reservation boundaries), water-based recreation, and environmental concerns. In addition, each BAG must include a person to represent the public at large who may reside outside the basin. BAG members are expected to have a demonstrated interest or expertise that will benefit the work of the group.

BAG Responsibilities

- BAGs are responsible for advising DEQ's director on the following matters:
 - Priorities for monitoring within the basin
 - Revisions needed in the designated beneficial uses for water bodies within the basins
 - Categories to which water bodies in the basin should be assigned
 - Processes for developing and implementing TMDLs
 - Members to be appointed to watershed advisory groups
 - Priorities for water quality programs within the basin based on available economic resources

Idaho Basins and DEQ Regions



Panhandle BAG

- [Panhandle Basin Advisory Group \(BAG\) Website](#)
- [Idaho Code Title 39-3613: Creation of Basin Advisory Groups](#)
- [Idaho Code Title 39-3614: Duties of the Basin Advisory Group](#)

BAG Members

Interest Represented	BAG Member
Coeur d'Alene Tribe	Scott Fields
Water-Based Recreation	Vince Renaldi
Forestry	Kennon McClintock
Local Government	Dan Dinning, Chairman
Agriculture	Jack Filipowski
Environment	Adrienne Cronebaugh
Kootenai Tribe	Patty Perry
Livestock	Robert Rider
Mining	Melissa Driskell
Representative-at-Large	John Beacham
Non-Municipal NPDES	Ward Cooper

Watershed Advisory Groups

- Watershed advisory groups (WAGs) are groups of citizens that provide DEQ with local public input and guidance regarding specific watersheds during TMDL development. The WAG provides an opportunity for concerned and involved citizens to be involved with the TMDL process from start to finish. The WAG does not typically write the TMDL document but is an integral part of the process; its input is given great weight in TMDL development and implementation.



WAG Membership

- Because pollution reduction is often associated with economic, social, and/or cultural impacts, it is important that WAG membership reflect a balanced representation of the interests in the watershed. The individual WAG members come from a broad cross section of the community. The DEQ director appoints WAG members after receiving input from the appropriate basin advisory group.
- The size and interests of a WAG vary depending on the community's level of interest and the complexity of the issues in the watershed. As appropriate, WAG members include representatives from the agriculture, mining, forest products, livestock, and water-based recreation industries; point source dischargers; local government; Native American tribes; environmental groups; and affected land management or regulatory agencies.
- A person does not need to be a water quality expert to serve on a WAG. The WAG is not formed for its technical and regulatory expertise but as a source of local information. Individuals who live or work within a subbasin are the experts on that subbasin.

WAG Responsibilities

- WAGs help DEQ identify local concerns regarding water quality, provide qualitative and quantitative data, and address the relevance of anecdotal information. The legal and technical aspects of a TMDL are largely outside the WAG's influence and are the responsibility of technical experts from state and federal agencies. These experts write the bulk of the TMDL. It is their job to assess and quantify water quality problems, specify the amount of pollution reduction necessary to meet water quality standards, and develop options to allocate the necessary pollutant limits among the various pollutant sources in the watershed.

WAG Responsibilities

- The following are key responsibilities of WAGs:
 - Advise the TMDL authors on matters of concern to the community.
 - Contribute to the education of watershed residents on water quality issues.
 - Help identify contributing pollution sources in the watershed.
 - Assist in dividing pollution reduction allocations among contributors.
 - Recommend specific actions needed to effectively control sources of pollution.
 - Help develop and set in motion an implementation plan needed to meet the water quality targets identified in the TMDL.



WAG Responsibilities

- On average, TMDLs take about two years to develop. During certain periods, the focus may be on data collection, and a WAG may only meet once every few months. However, when critical policy decisions are being made on issues such as load allocations, a WAG may meet more frequently (e.g., several times per month). The WAG's involvement continues through the implementation phase of the TMDL.

WAG Responsibilities

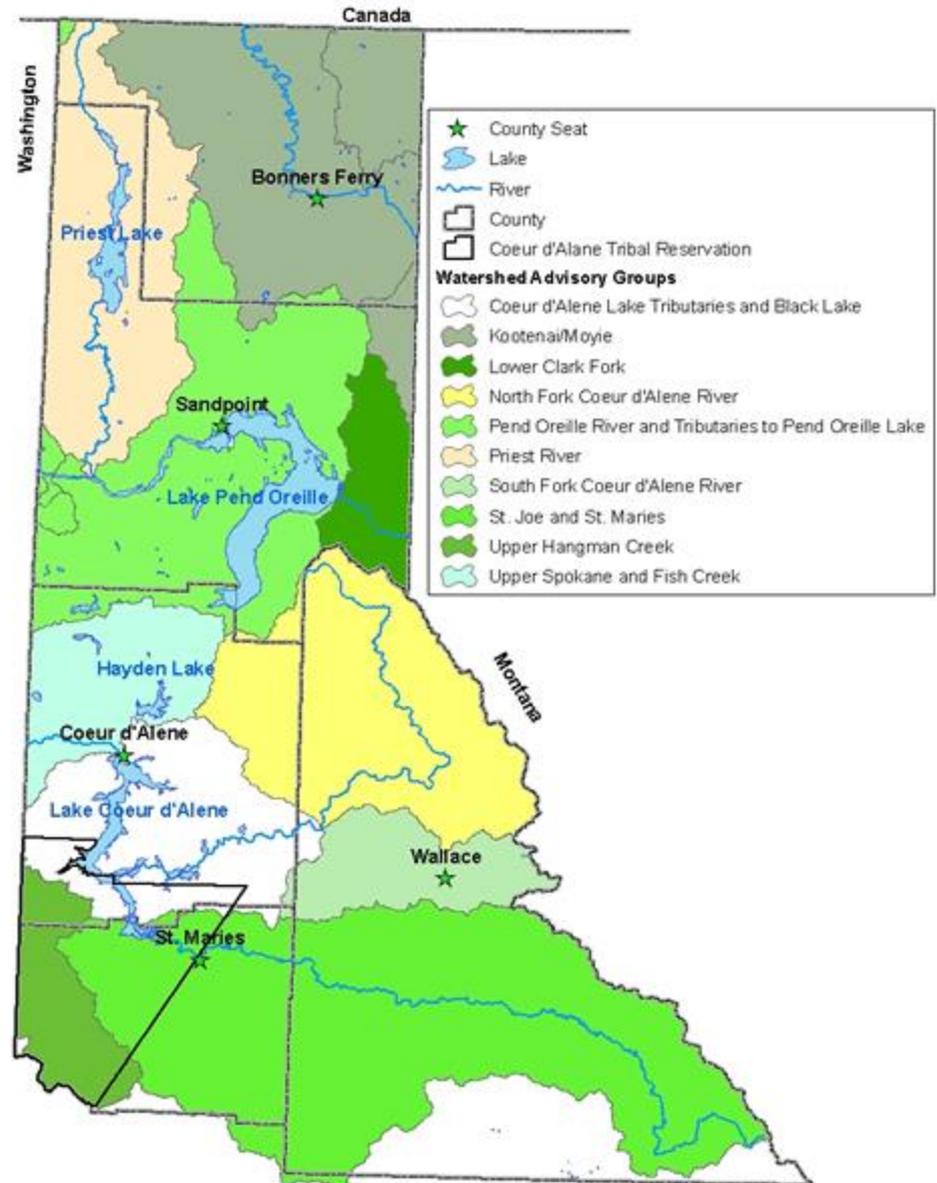
- To the degree possible, regulatory agencies try to incorporate WAG recommendations into the TMDL. Experience has shown that a TMDL that is supported by the community is far more likely to succeed during implementation than one that is not. In some cases, however, WAG recommendations conflict with regulatory or statutory requirements.

WAG Responsibilities

- If the WAG disagrees with the TMDL or subbasin assessment, that position and the basis for that position are documented in the public notice of availability of the TMDL for public comment and in the TMDL submission to EPA. The final document also contains the WAG's position and DEQ's response to it.

Spokane River Metals TMDL WAG

- [Spokane River Watershed Advisory Group \(WAG\)](#)
- Subscribe to this page
- <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/regional-offices-issues/coeur-dalene/basin-watershed-advisory-groups/spokane-river-wag/>
- [Creation of WAGs](#)
- [Duties of WAGs](#)



Proposed to BAG

Spokane River Cd, Pb and Zn Watershed Advisory Group

§39-3615, Members of each watershed advisory group shall be representative of the industries and interests affected by the management of that watershed and shall, where appropriate, include a representative from each of the following: agriculture, mining, point source dischargers, forest products, local government, livestock, Indian tribes (for areas within reservation boundaries), water-based recreation, environmental interests and the land managing or regulatory agencies with an interest in the management of that watershed and the quality of the water bodies within it.

Candidate	Affiliation	Agriculture	Mining	Point Source Dischargers	Forest Products	Local Government	Livestock	Indian tribes (for areas within reservation boundaries)‡	Water-based Recreation	Environmental Interests	Land Management or Regulatory Agencies
Beacham, John†	City of Post Falls			1		3			4	3	
Cronebaugh, Adrienne†	Kootenai Environmental Alliance									?	
Fredrickson, Sid	City of Coeur d' Alene			1		2				3	
Glader, Paul	Hecla Mining Company		1								
Jenkins, Jeremy†	Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District									?	
Laumitia, Laura	Coeur d' Alene Tribe									1	2
Lunney, Megan	Avista Corporation							?	2	1	3
Sheppard, Clyde "Rusty"	Kootenai County Natural Resources Advisory Board					1				2	
Walkinshaw, Ross†	Spokane River Association								?		
White, Jerry†	Spokane Riverkeeper, Center for Justice									?	

†Expressed interest although DEQ has not received a survey from this candidate, ‡ not an option on the survey

Example Operating Procedures

1. Recommendations made to the Panhandle Basin Advisory Group (BAG) and the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by the Priest Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) will be based on consensus (100%) of all participants in the meeting. If consensus (100%) cannot be reached recommendations will be based on two-thirds (6/8, 5/7, 4/6, 4/5, 3/4) majority rule of named members voting with an opportunity for anybody present to prepare a minority position.
2. While seeking consensus (100%), meetings will be conducted informally. All members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend and participate fully in every WAG meeting. If consensus cannot be met then Department of Environmental Quality will facilitate Watershed Advisory Group as a non-voting member; and will follow informal Robert's Rules of Order for development of motions and voting.
3. Absentee votes will not be accepted. Items to be voted on will be tabled and announced in the up-coming agenda as to give time for reviewing the topic and to make appropriate accommodations to attend the meeting.

Example Operating Procedures

4. A quorum is only needed when a consensus (100%) cannot be reached, and appointed members are voting. A quorum of 50% named members (4) must be present to vote on any formal items introduced during a meeting.
5. Meetings will be scheduled one month in advance, if possible.
6. Draft copies of meeting agendas will be available to the Watershed Advisory Group and the public one week in advance.

Example Operating Procedures

7. Meetings will be conducted according to Idaho Open Meeting Law (Idaho Code §§67-2340 through 67-2347). Meeting announcements and agendas to be posted at the Department of Environmental Quality, Coeur d'Alene Regional Office and on Spokane River Metals TMDL WAG website.
8. The DEQ Spokane River Metals TMDL WAG website is the primary source for information about the Priest Watershed Advisory Group (WAG). All media information requests regarding WAG may be referred to the Department of Environmental Quality.

Spokane River Metals TMDL WAG

- Determine Operating Procedures
- Advise BAG on named members

